

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. said today, "I was stunned and outraged to learn about the incident in which State Senator James Meeks was stopped and verbally assaulted by a police officer after church services at Roseland's Salem Baptist Church. The officer, Sergeant Clifford of the 5th District, verbally assaulted and drew his gun on Reverend Meeks."

Jackson stated, "Like most fair-minded Chicagoans, I am deeply concerned by Sergeant Clifford's threatening and dangerous act of pointing his gun at the face of Reverend Meeks. The city and the police department should immediately launch a thorough investigation and do everything in their power to make sure such incidents don't happen again.

"The actions of Sgt. Clifford undermine the good work and community relations of the professional, hard working and brave officers of the Chicago police force," concluded Jackson.